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Fresno, California

July 20, 2006

The City Council met in special joint session with the Fresno County Board of Supervisors at the hour of 9:00 a.m., at the Cornerstone Conference Center, 1525 Fulton Street, on the day above written, to consider issues relative to public safety services.

Present were Council members Boyajian, Calhoun, Dages, Sterling, Westerlund, President Duncan, Mayor Autry, City Manager Souza, City Attorney Sanchez, Fire Chief Bruegman, Police Chief Dyer and Assistant City Clerk Salazar. Acting President Perea was absent.

Present from Fresno County were Supervisors Anderson, Case, Perea, Waterston, Chair Larson, Sheriff Pierce, and necessary staff.

President/CEO Al Smith of the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce (GFACC) moderated the meeting.

(9:00 A.M.) CONSIDER ISSUES REGARDING CONSOLIDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES - DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION ON:

1. DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT PROPERTY/EVIDENCE STORAGE FACILITY
2. DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT PRISONER PROCESSING FACILITY TO SUPPORT OPERATION OF THE COUNTY JAIL
3. DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH CENTER
4. DISCUSSION ON THE GOVERNANCE SYSTEM FOR JOINT FACILITIES
5. APPROVAL OF RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Moderator Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed all to the meeting, and self introductions were made by City and County officials. Mr. Smith stated this meeting was a collaborative effort to attempt to address the very crucial issue of public safety, noted a few years ago Chief Dyer and Sheriff Pierce attended a GFACC planning conference and requested/challenged the Chamber to look down the road and determine if the current city/county structure was (1) the most effective way to have the quickest response time for community safety and (2) the best use of taxpayer dollars and spoke to the evaluation process that was undertaken by the Chamber and a consulting firm, clarified the mission this date was not to move towards consolidation but to study which services of the two entities could be integrated in order to increase response time and maximize tax dollars, stated since the needs of public safety, fire and emergency services varied it was the Chamber's opinion that the evaluation be done in two stages -- 1st, city-county policing, which he stated would be addressed this date, and 2nd, fire and emergencies, which he stated would be addressed in the future, and gave an overview of the consulting firm's first report and recommendations.

Chair Larson, Council President Duncan, Mayor Autry, Supervisor Waterston and Councilmember Westerlund thanked the Chamber for all their efforts, welcomed everyone and made opening remarks, and spoke to the importance of consolidation, communication, the need for this matter to be driven by a third party, need for a CSI lab for all the cities/all law enforcement, importance of the outlying cities, and differences of opinions and the need to be mindful of the end product which is how to best serve the community.

Chief Dyer and Sheriff Pierce gave a PowerPoint presentation and/or spoke to consolidation, the integration opportunities they see, public perceptions, integration successes, need to take the first step, importance of integrating with outside agencies, and a joint dispatch center and prisoner processing center near/connected to the jail being the top two important public safety issues.

General discussion ensued with Councilmember Sterling commenting on the issue including consolidation being the way to go since 9-11, recommendation to hold joint meetings quarterly, and offering to serve on a task force for the joint prisoner processing facility. Chair Larson commented and/or presented questions relative to the need for a joint dispatch center, what was going on dispatch-wise in areas currently covered, and how costs are handled for medical calls, with Dan Lynch, Director of Emergency Medical Services for Fresno County responding. Supervisor Anderson commented on the current joint dispatch center being overlooked as a possible interim solution, to the center being very high tech and modern even though it is 20+ years old, to the need for a task force to see if it is possible/feasible to expand the center to meet needs, to the need for a destruction plan for a joint property and evidence storage facility, and to the need for the prisoner processing facility to be connected to the jail. Supervisor Waterston commented and/or presented questions relative to the current dispatch center being limited to just a dispatch center, need to determine which operations will be housed in one facility or location, number of calls the police and sheriff's departments handle yearly, the need and importance of getting a commitment from the outlying cities, need to involve the outlying cities in task forces, if the current dispatch center can handle 1.5 million calls a year, and if the center could handle 1.5 million calls a year if it were to be expanded, with Chief Dyer, Sheriff Pierce and Mr. Lynch responding throughout.

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Lengthy discussion continued. Councilmember Westerlund stated he felt it was important to begin by looking at, and bringing in, all the data (i.e. operations, personnel, cable/fiber optics, technical aspects), all the sites, costs, and explained, stated being armed with the data and actual facts would help Council and the Board determine what does and does not make sense, and recommended groups with members of the Council, the Board, and technical experts be formed. Chair Larson agreed but stated that would take time and emphasized something needed to be done now and/or in the interim and elaborated, and added he did not want to go to another Josh Lancaster and Eric Tellen funeral. In terms of getting things done quickly Chief Dyer stated the most important thing that law enforcement can do is be able to communicate with those in the field and stated that system would be in place within the next 60 days and explained, stated it was also important to look at what the space needs are and explained, and spoke to the spacial needs analysis that was done on the police department. Chief Bruegman noted when his department moved over to the county EMS dispatch center there were immediate results in paramedic/ambulance response times, spoke to the importance and need to look at dispatching from a customer perspective stating delays/response times were a matter of life or death and explained, and stated bold steps needed to be taken and decisions needed to be made. President Duncan stated there was a clear commitment here to get this done, stated everyone had to be very cognizant of a positive process that will get results, relative to forming task forces recommended the concept of including a Council and Board representative, appropriate staff, and an independent third party be considered, and also stated discussions and solutions were needed. Sheriff Pierce concurred with the need for a task force and stressed a time line should be set with the date strictly adhered to. Supervisor Case agreed a task force methodology was needed to get into details and see how different elements can be defined, agreed it was imperative that all the 15 cities be included in this process, spoke to the areas involved and stressed a joint dispatch center must serve the needs of the west side and the east side, suggested a presentation be made before COG as that was the only place that had a representative with a voice from every city in the county, and offered to be part of a task force. Supervisor Perea stated the issue of location needed to be taken off the table and members needed to resist the temptation of trying to select a site right off the bat, noted there were four major areas of possible integration and the first thing needed was agreement on those areas so the task forces could be focused, recommended elected officials not serve on the task forces as they would be making the decisions and added the customers needed to design the system, and relative to the governance system stated a difference structure may be needed such as a Joint Powers Authority as that was how all the cities could be brought to the table and explained, and added a decision also needed to be made on whether to ask the Chamber, as a third party, to take the lead on this issue.

Supervisor Anderson stated she agreed with Supervisor Perea on the location issue but clarified since there was already a location and an operating dispatch center she felt a task force was needed to conduct an analysis on that location and made a motion to appoint a task force to conduct an analysis on the existing dispatch center at the fairgrounds to include the feasibility of expansion, cost, time frame, and what it would take to handle anticipated calls. The motion was seconded by Chair Larson and additions to the motion were subsequently made. Councilmember Boyajian made the same motion for the City side and it was seconded by Councilmember Sterling.

Speaking to public safety issues were: Paul Besseliever who stated he agreed with Chief Bruegman's comments, spoke to the importance of looking at matters from the customer perspective, and spoke to his experiences with calling 9-1-1; Alex Correa, union representative for police non-sworn members, who spoke to the need for adequate facilities and results, and suggested incorporating senior employees in the dispatch center and other areas to give there perspective; (2 - 0) Steve Geil, Chairman of the Board, Chamber of Commerce, who stated it was gratifying to see the City and County at the table talking, spoke to the need to keep the human element part of the process, and stated the Chamber would be willing to lead the task force on the dispatch center location; and Dee Barnes, County resident/City employee, former police department dispatcher, who stated location will not address all matters, spoke to her experience with 9-1-1 calls and to issues when 9-1-1 is dialed that have not been addressed, and questioned how 9-1-1 system pieces would be integrated.

Upon call, no one else from the public wished to be heard.

Upon the request of Chief Dyer, Lt. Mike Brogden, 9-1-1 Communication Commander, explained the 9-1-1 call system and technology, and along with Chief Dyer responded briefly to questions of Supervisor Anderson relative to what percentage of 9-1-1 calls were from cell phones and calls that go to the CHP.

Upon question of President Duncan, Supervisor Anderson clarified the motion and confirmed the task force would focus solely on the fairgrounds site. President Duncan further questioned if Supervisor Anderson would consider including that role as part of a larger task force looking at the entire joint communications center, with Supervisor Anderson stating although that was needed also she felt one task force was needed just to focus on the existing facility.

Councilmember Boyajian stated there was a sense of emergency but with all the technical issues he was at a loss, concurred with the task force concept but stated he felt there should be more than one Council and Supervisor representative as they would be providing feedback to the Council and Board, and reiterated there were a lot of issues to discuss and agreed with the suggestion to meet quarterly.

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Chair Larson clarified the motion did not imply permanence but would get things moving now. Supervisor Case requested if the motion-makers would include representatives of the eastside and westside cities to have an effective task force and added the CHP should also be engaged, with Supervisor Anderson agreeing and adding the inclusion of employees, sub-committees, and a deadline date of 90 days for a preliminary report back.

Councilmember Westerlund stated it was a mistake at this time to look at specific sites, stated he thought the idea was to evaluate all sites and let the data drive site selection, stated oftentimes the short-term solution becomes the permanent solution, agreed hard, fast dates needed to be set, and reiterated all sites needed to be looked at and stated he could not support the motion. Supervisor Anderson clarified her motion was not for a site selection task force but for a task force to conduct an analysis and get answers on an existing process to simply get data and added she felt other task forces needed to be started simultaneously and parallel. Upon question of Mr. Smith, Supervisor Anderson stated a dispatch task force and her proposed task force could communicate and coordinate with each other.

Supervisor Waterston stated he was not dead set on location and wanted what was best for the community, and reiterated and emphasized the importance of a task force first asking city managers what cities will be involved stating he can not see how anything can move forward without determining how many calls there will be.

Councilmember Westerlund noted were there four different points and stated the process that should be undertaken with each one simultaneously should be formation of a task force/group (comprised of appropriate members) governed and facilitated by a member of the Chamber to develop and bring back a presentation within 90 days or whatever date is set, and further elaborated on what should be analyzed/looked at by each of the four committees. Upon question of Supervisor Waterston, Supervisor Anderson stated she would support a motion as proposed by Councilmember Westerlund but clarified that process would take longer, and added the information gathered by her task force in their very short-term study could be provided to the larger committee/task force, and called for the vote on her motion.

Supervisor Perea spoke against the motion from the standpoint that this was starting to get micro, stated the issue was to take the macro approach as elected officials with the four agenda items, stated there should first be agreement on the four issues, ask the Chamber if they want to take the lead, and if they do the Chamber would then put together the appropriate task forces and sub-task forces if needed within each to get the job done. Councilmember Westerlund added Supervisor Anderson's motion made a lot of sense but he felt it should be a part of one of these groups and not a separate item or it would get bogged down real quick. Councilmember Calhoun stated he agreed with Supervisor Perea and Councilmember Westerlund, stated the motion on the table balkanizes what is trying to be accomplished and encouraged a "no" vote so focus could move back on the broader question. Supervisor Waterston concurred there should first be action/agreement on the four points and then a vote on the motion, with County Counsel Marshall noting Supervisor Anderson called for the vote but stated she could withdraw or suspend the motion, whereupon Supervisor Anderson again called for the vote.

A motion of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Chair Larson, to form a task force to conduct an analysis on the existing joint dispatch center including the feasibility of expansion, cost, and time frame for the expansion, and report back in 90 days with a preliminary report was approved on a vote of 4 to 1, with Supervisor Anderson, Chair Larson, Supervisor Case and Supervisor Waterston voting "Yes" and Supervisor Perea noting "No".

A motion of Councilmember Boyajian, seconded by Councilmember Sterling, to form a task force to conduct an analysis on the existing joint dispatch center including the feasibility of expansion, cost, and time frame for the expansion, and report back in 90 days with a preliminary report failed, by the following vote:

Ayes :	Boyajian, Dages, Sterling
Noes :	Calhoun, Westerlund, Duncan
Absent :	Perea

Upon question of Supervisor Anderson, Mr. Marshall confirmed the County action stood and could proceed

Councilmember Westerlund made a motion to establish four task forces (aka "working groups") with a City and County representative, with east and west side representatives from the County, with appropriate staff for each particular working group, with the groups to be facilitated by a member of the Chamber of Commerce, with working group #1 to discuss the development of a joint property/evidence storage facility, working group #2 to discuss the development of a joint prisoner processing facility to support operation of the County Jail, working group #3 to discuss the development of a joint public safety dispatch center, and working group #4 to discuss

the governance system for joint facilities, and with a report back from each group/task force in 90 days. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Calhoun and a city of Clovis representative was subsequently added. President Duncan clarified the concept of four task forces was the concept of the working group that put this meeting together.

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Councilmember Dages stated he would preferred to have had just one task force with working groups under that, stated he felt this was going to take a lot of time, stated he felt both law enforcement agencies and law enforcement agencies from the other incorporated cities needed to be involved in the location adding he did not see where an elected official should be involved in location at all, stated he hoped the bodies would not filter themselves down to where they are so segmented they can not get anything done and he was afraid this was going to get watered down, and stated his support for the Chamber taking the lead.

Supervisor Waterston stated he felt everyone was talking about the same thing but he would put the monkey on the Chamber's back and have them take the leadership, set the process up, and tell the bodies how they think this should be done, with Mr. Smith stating the Chamber was ready to step forward and facilitate, stated they would try to allay Councilmember Dages' fears that this will not get watered down, and stated the motion by Councilmember Westerlund was right on target and he felt some of the reports could come back quicker than 90 days.

Brief discussion continued. Supervisor Case stated she supported both motions and added the first motion would help to move the other task forces move forward and explained, and clarified she was not committed to a location. President Duncan concurred, stated analysis of the County site should be and would be the first thing analyzed as data was available, and upon his question Supervisor Anderson stated she would make the just approved County task force a sub-committee of the larger task force, with President Duncan stating that was an excellent selection and Supervisor Perea concurring. Councilmember Sterling suggested Councilmember Dages be part of the task force as he represented the area, upon her question it was confirmed Chief Dyer, Sheriff Pierce, the County CAO and the City Manager would be involved overall and help facilitate staffing for the various committees, and Chair Larson responded to her question relative to how the outlying cities would be chosen to participate in the committees. Upon the request of Supervisor Case, Councilmember Westerlund added a city of Clovis representative to the motion. Supervisor Anderson clarified since Councilmember Dages represents the area he would be sitting on the County sub-committee.

On motion of Councilmember Westerlund, seconded by Councilmember Calhoun, duly carried, RESOLVED, four (4) task forces (aka "working groups") to be established consisting of an elected City and County representative, representatives from the east and west side cities from the County, a city of Clovis representative, appropriate staff for each particular working group with the working groups to be facilitated by a member of the Chamber of Commerce, with working group #1 to discuss the development of a joint property/evidence storage facility, working group #2 to discuss the development of a joint prisoner processing facility to support operation of the County Jail, working group #3 to discuss the development of a joint public safety dispatch center, and working group #4 to discuss the governance system for joint facilities, and the task forces to report back within in 90 days, by the following vote:

Ayes :	Boyajian, Calhoun, Dages, Sterling, Westerlund, Duncan
Noes :	None
Absent :	Perea

A motion of Supervisor Waterston, seconded by Supervisor Anderson, to establish four (4) task forces (aka "working groups") consisting of an elected City and County representative, representatives from the east and west side cities from the County, a city of Clovis representative, appropriate staff for each particular working group with the working groups to be facilitated by a member of the Chamber of Commerce, with working group #1 to discuss the development of a joint property/evidence storage facility, working group #2 to discuss the development of a joint prisoner processing facility to support operation of the County Jail, working group #3 to discuss the development of a joint public safety dispatch center, and working group #4 to discuss the governance system for joint facilities, and with the task forces reporting back within in 90 days was approved on a unanimous vote of the Supervisors.

Mr. Smith stated the Chamber would get together with both entities and get the organizational structure in place and requested those members interested in serving on the task forces talk with President Duncan and Chair Larson for coordination. Chair Larson thanked the Chamber for their work and stated this was a dream come true, and thanked Sheriff Pierce, Chiefs Dyer and Bruegman and Mr. Lynch for their input. President Duncan echoed Chair Larson's comment and asked the task forces to inform the City and County when they fulfil their mission and are ready to go so another special meeting can be convened otherwise stated a joint meeting would be held in January to review results.

There being no further business to bring before the joint bodies, Mr. Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

APPROVED on the ____25th____ day of ____July____, 2006.

____ATTEST:____

Jerry Duncan, Council President

Yolanda Salazar, Assistant City Clerk

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